

COVID-19 Testing at Post-Acute Care (PAC) facilities

Purpose:

To establish a process for post-acute care (PAC) facilities to have patients/residents tested for COVID-19 using a Public Health Laboratory.

Scope:

This process will apply to all PAC facilities in Delaware, including long-term care, assisted living, intermediate care, and other residential facilities.

Provisions:

This procedure is to assist PAC facilities to quickly identify COVID-19 positive patients/residents to determine an outbreak in a facility. Facilities should attempt to determine the status of symptomatic patients as soon as possible.

*In the event that the state epidemiologist establishes an outbreak at a facility, the PAC facility no longer needs to submit additional specimens for testing.

Procedure:

1. PAC facility will identify a patient/resident that is exhibiting symptoms of a respiratory illness, such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fever (99.5°F and above), or muscle aches.
2. PAC facility will contact patient/resident's physician or facility medical director to determine recommendation for COVID-19 testing and obtain an order.

*For assisted living facilities only: if the patient's primary care provider or any other of the patient's healthcare providers is not available after multiple documented attempts to reach, facility will contact DPH Call Center at 1-866-408-1899 and Press option #1 to reach the DPH Nurse Line to get a doctor's order for testing.

3. PAC Licensed Nursing staff on duty will complete lab requisition form and perform nasopharyngeal swab.
4. PAC facility will contact Office of Epidemiology and relay relevant information and to coordinate specimen laboratory testing.

302-744-4990

or

888-295-5156

5. PAC facility will choose an option to have specimen transported to Public Health Laboratory:
 - a. Drop off at a DPH Clinic during regular business hours:

Monday – Friday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

*Specimen dropped off on Friday after 11:00 AM, will not be delivered to the laboratory until the following Monday.

New Castle County	Kent County	Sussex County
Porter State Service Center 509 W 8 th Street, Wilmington, De 19801 302-777-2860 Courier pick up daily at 9:30 AM	Williams State Service Center 805 River Rd. Dover, DE 19901 302-857-5000 Courier pick up is daily at 10:30 AM	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St. Georgetown, De 19947 302-515-3174 Courier pick up daily at 9 AM
Hudson State Service Center 501 Ogletown Rd. Newark, DE 19711 302-283-7587, option 2 Courier pick up daily at 8:00 AM	Milford State Service Center 253 NE Front St. Riverwalk Shopping Ctr Milford, DE 19963 302-424-7130 Courier pick up: M, W, F at 10 AM	Shipley State Service Center 350 Virginia Ave. Seaford, DE 19973 302-628-6772 Courier pick up M, W, F at 8 AM

*DPH clinics are currently closed to outside visitors. Collection kits can be dropped off by appointment only. To schedule an appointment to drop off specimen, call number listed for the respective clinic. If specimen is not dropped off prior to courier pick up for the day, the specimen will not be sent to the DPH Lab until the next courier pick up day. Specimens should not be dropped off at locations after courier pick up if there's no courier pick up the next day.

b. Drop off at the Public Health Laboratory in Smyrna during lab business hours:

Public Health Laboratory 30 Sunnyside Rd, Smyrna, DE 19977 Side door entry Lab box is outside the door during these hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM *weekend hours are only in effect during COVID-19 State of Emergency (if the box is not by the door, call: 302-223-1520)	
Saturday and Sunday*	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- PAC facility will submit a Resource Request Form to shoc_ops@delaware.gov to replenish any testing kits that were used for testing. The kits can be picked up at a DPH Clinic within 24 hours (regular business hours) or they can be delivered to LTC facilities within 72 hours. To schedule a testing kit pick up at the DPH clinic, please coordinate with clinic by calling numbers listed above.

*DPH will not replenish testing kits after an “outbreak” is confirmed at a facility.

If a PAC facility has any questions regarding this procedure, or other questions pertinent to post-acute care facilities, please call DPH Call Center at: 1-866-408-1899, option #2; or send an email to: DPH_PAC@delaware.gov